

# STEROID-MODIFIED GENITAL HERPES

Dated November, 2007

## HISTORY

- 34 yr old bisexual male
- Partners in Australia and China
- Penile ulcer for 5 weeks
- Tests all negative:
  - HSV PCR
  - Syphilis serology
  - Treponema pallidum PCR
  - Microscopy and culture for Haemophilus ducreyi
  - Biopsied: Histology showed non-specific inflammation only
- Referred by dermatologist

## EXAMINATION



## FURTHER HISTORY

- He had been using a "cream!"

## FOLLOW-UP:

- Returned with new lesions and the tube of cream
- The cream was Kenacomb ointment
- New lesions HSV-2 positive by PCR
- Treated with valaciclovir 500 mg bd

### *After 1 week of valaciclovir treatment*



## DIAGNOSIS

Steroid-modified genital herpes

## THE LESSON

- Topical steroids are well known to delay healing of Herpes simplex lesions, and are contraindicated unless the patient is also being treated with an effective systemic antiviral medication.
- Kenacomb is a combination of a potent steroid (triamcinolone), an antifungal (nystatin) and two antibacterial agents (neomycin and gramicidin.)
- Kenacomb is commonly prescribed as "shotgun" therapy for a wide variety of dermatological conditions.
- Topical Kenacomb causes two main problems, both seen fairly commonly in sexual health practice:
  - contact dermatitis, often severe, due to the neomycin component

*and*

  - delayed healing of herpetic lesions, as represented by this case.